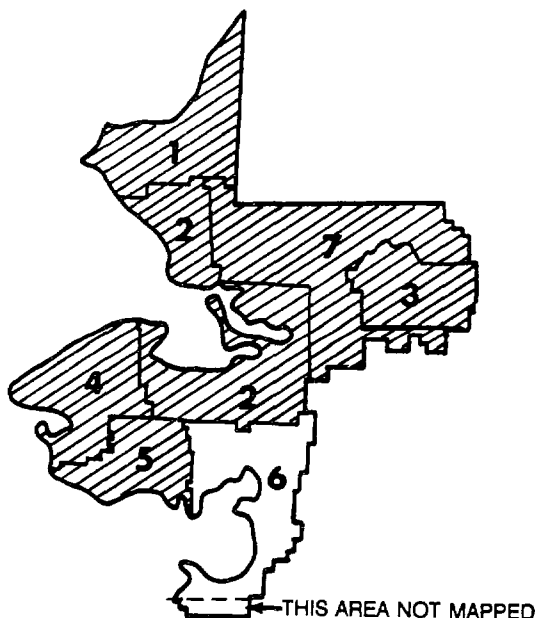


Management Unit 6: NORTON SOUND



Background

Location and Land Ownership. This unit includes lands that drain into Norton Sound from Cape Darby in the north to St. Michael and Stebbins in the south. Most of the uplands in this unit are under federal or Native ownership. Several parcels of private land, such as Native allotments and patented mining claims, exist in this unit. State ownership is limited to uplands north of the Koyuk River, the tidelands, and the beds of navigable rivers, such as the Tubutulik, Kwiniuk, Kwik, Koyuk, Inglutalik, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet. The Unalakleet River is part of the federal wild and scenic river system.

Resources and Land Uses. The communities of Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, St. Michael, and Stebbins are within this unit. Residents of these communities and others use the area for hunting, fishing, reindeer herding, mining, and subsistence activities. Although the communities rely on coastal resources for much of their harvest, they also use the Koyuk River and other inland areas for harvesting caribou, moose, brown bear, and furbearers. Caribou migrate through portions of this unit, and late fall and winter hunting is an important activity here. The main uses of state tidelands and submerged lands

are for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, access routes, and recreation. Public recreation is concentrated along the Koyuk, Egavik, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet rivers, St. Michael Bay, and Stuart Canal. Tideland areas support herring spawning, belukha, ringed seal, walrus, ducks, geese, and anadromous fish. There are numerous seabird rookeries along the coast. All coastal areas, especially at Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Isaacs Roadhouse, Unalakleet River, Twenty-two Mile Cabin, and the Innoko River, have known cultural values. Anvik River and Shaktoolik River have a high probability for discovery of additional cultural sites. The offshore Norton oil and gas basin was proposed for a lease sale, but the sale was cancelled in 1983. It is not on the present five-year oil and gas lease sale schedule.

Access. Access to the unit is by air, sea, or overland trail. Community airports exist at all villages. The district airport at Unalakleet has jet facilities. Other access within the unit is by boat along the navigable rivers and along the coast, by wheelplane or floatplane along the coast, and by snowmachine or dogsled along the numerous regional and local trails. Major trails follow the Inglutalik, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, North, and Koyuk rivers. The Iditarod Trail ex-

tends along the Unalakleet River and north along the coast through Shaktoolik, Koyuk, and Elim.

Management Intent

General. State uplands, tidelands and submerged lands in this unit will remain in public ownership and be managed for multiple use. State land will remain open to new mineral entry. State-owned shoreland will be managed as described in the general management intent on page 3-4.

Subunits. There are three subunits in the Norton Sound Management Unit: 6a (habitat and harvest tidelands), 6b (general use uplands), and 6c (habitat and harvest uplands). The general management intent for these subunits is described on pages 3-4 to 3-6.

The *Resource Information Summary* chart for this unit highlights important resource values found in each subunit. The summary is based on information from various resource reports prepared for the plan (see appendices C and D).

The *Land Use Designation Summary* chart for this unit provides a quick picture of planned uses for each subunit. For a complete description of management policy, the chart must be used with the statement of management intent and the management guidelines.

Coastal Plans. Portions of the Norton Sound Management Unit are within the Bering Straits Coastal Management Plan (CMP) boundaries. Activities on state land within this unit will be managed consistent with CMP policies. Areas identified as Important Use Areas in the Bering Straits CMP are listed below and shown on maps in Appendix J. These areas have special policies for subsistence which apply through the CMP.

Two areas, the Portage Roadhouse and the Stuart Island/Klikitarik area in Subunit 6a (habitat and harvest tidelands), have been recommended for designation as Areas Meriting Special Attention (AMSAs) by the Bering Straits Coastal Management Program. Management of state land within the AMSA will be consistent with the AMSA plan when it is adopted.

Management Guidelines

Bird Rookeries and Subsurface Resources (Subunit 6a). Cape Denbigh and other cliffs south along the coast are home for large colonies of seabirds, including common murres, pelagic cormorants, and horned puffins. Seasonally, between 14,000 and 20,000 seabirds occupy the colony at Cape Denbigh. For special guidelines that apply to bird rookeries and other sites on state land within these subunits, see Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guideline K, page 2-8.

Commercial Recreation (Subunit 6a). *Public and Commercial Recreation* Guideline D, page 2-23, describes state management for

Important Use Areas

Island Point to Beeson Slough
Kwiniuk, Tubutulik, & Kwik Rivers
Koyuk River

Stebbins Wetlands
St. Michael Bay
Unalakleet River

Subunit

6a - habitat and harvest tidelands
6a - habitat and harvest tidelands
6a - habitat and harvest tidelands, and
6c - habitat and harvest uplands
6a - habitat and harvest tidelands
6a - habitat and harvest tidelands
6a - habitat and harvest tidelands

commercial recreation. For this subunit, this guideline prohibits commercial recreation leasing in the following areas: 25 anadromous stream mouths or enclosed estuaries, 6 marine mammal haulouts, and 14 seabird rookeries, as shown on the management unit map.

Mouths of Anadromous Streams or Enclosed Estuaries (Subunit 6a). *Fish and Wildlife Habitat* Guideline J, page 2-8, describes state management for mouths of anadromous streams and narrow openings of enclosed estuaries, such as lagoons, inlets, or basins. These areas are shown on the management unit maps. For many of these stream mouths and estuaries the location of the opening is dynamic, and the guideline will apply to their location at the time of a proposed action. Within these subunits, this guideline applies to the following areas:

Anadromous Streams

Carson Creek	Mukluktulik River
Egavik Creek	Pikmiktalik River
Golsovia River	Point Creek
Inglutalik River	Powers Creek
Kogok River	Shaktoolik River
Iron Creek	Spruce Creek
Koyuk River	Tagoomenik River
Kuiak River	Tubutulik River
Kuinktalik River	Unalakleet River
Kwik River	Ungalik River
Kwiniuk River	Unnamed river west of the Kwik River
Little St. Michael River	

Enclosed Estuaries

Shaktoolik Bay
Kwiniuk Inlet

Remote Cabins (Subunits 6b and 6c). The upper Koyuk River area is identified for remote cabin permits. The following area is open to ten remote cabin permits:

T1S R19W KRM sections 19-36

T1S R18W KRM sections 1,2,11-14 & 19-36

T1S R17W KRM

T1S R16W KRM

T2S R17W KRM sections 1-5, 8-17, 20-29 & 32-36

T2S R16W KRM

Selections (Subunits 6b and 6c). The plan recommends selecting lands along the middle Koyuk River because of mineral, wildlife, access, subsistence, and recreation values.

General. The complete set of areawide guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. The *Resource Information Summary* charts for this unit identify important trails, known or probable heritage sites, and other resource values in specific subunits that are addressed by the appropriate guidelines in Chapter 2. Any of the Chapter 2 guidelines could apply to certain uses within this management unit. Those that are most likely to apply are:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Grazing
- Heritage resources
- Public and commercial recreation
- Remote cabins and trapping cabins
- Subsurface resources
- Trail management

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 6: Norton Sound

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	6a	6b	6c
Fire Protection	N/A	Mostly full protection south of Peace R./Koyuk R.; modified remainder; critical at Haycock.	Modified, except south of Koyuk River (full).
Fish and Wildlife	A1: at 13 bird rookeries and 23 anadromous stream mouths; A2/B1: habitat for herring spawning, belukha, ringed seal, walrus, ducks and geese, moose, caribou and brown bear.	B2: moose, brown bear, caribou (east of Kugruk-Koyuk River valleys).	A2/B1: ducks, geese (spring, fall), brown bear, moose (winter range), caribou, anadromous fish.
Forestry	Driftwood	Spruce and/or hardwoods along upper reaches of Peace, Koyuk, and East Fork Koyuk Rivers.	Spruce and/or hardwoods along upper reaches of Peace, Koyuk, and East Fork Koyuk Rivers.
Heritage Resources	Known values along coast, especially at Shaktoolik, Cape Denbigh, Unalakleet River, Twenty-two Mile Cabin and Innoko River. Probable site on Anvik and Shaktoolik Rivers.	Unknown	Unknown
Important Trails	Iditarod Trail; Inglutalik R. trail; Ungalik R. trail; Shaktoolik R.; Unalakleet R. trail; Tubutulik R.; across Norton Bay and along coast.	Trails from Koyuk to Buckland, Deering, Candle, Granite Mtn., Haycock, Kiwalik R.; White Mountain to Candle (Fish R. to Kiwalik R.).	Trails along Koyuk R. and to Buckland, Deering, Candle, Granite Mtn., Haycock, Kiwalik R.; White Mtn. to Candle (Fish R. to Kiwalik R.).
Minerals	Not rated, but estimated low potential in area from around Tolstoi Point to Cape Denbigh, (cretaceous flysh deposits).	Mostly low to moderate; some high and very high potential; some mining claims, especially near Haycock.	Low to moderate to high potential; a few placer claims.
Oil & Gas	Norton Basin offshore. State lease sale proposed in 1981 and cancelled in 1983.	Unknown potential.	Unknown potential.
Public Access	Wheel and floatplane and boat access along coast. Trails around and across Norton Bay; community airstrips at Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins.	Remote airstrips on Gold Run Creek and on Koyuk River upstream from Dime Landing; regional and local trails.	Regional and local trails.
Recreation	Recreation opportunities along Koyuk, Egavik, Shaktoolik, North Fork, Unalakleet Rivers, Stuart Canal, and St. Michael Bay.	Unknown or low.	Mostly unknown or low, some potential along Koyuk River and tributaries.
Reindeer Grazing	N/A	Large areas of winter range.	Large areas of winter range along Koyuk R.
Settlement Suitability	N/A	Mostly unsuitable, some low potential along major rivers.	Mostly unsuitable to low, some moderate potential along major rivers.
Subsistence	Subsistence use in this unit has been documented by studies of the DF&G, Subsistence Division, for the communities of Unalakleet and Shaktoolik. Subsistence use by other communities—such as Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, and St. Michael—is known to exist, but the extent of their use has not been documented in studies for the NWAP.		

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 - NORTON SOUND

SUBUNIT	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
	PRIMARY SURFACE USE ¹	PROHIBITED SURFACE USE ²	SUBSURFACE ³	
6a	Habitat & harvest tidelands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open	
6b	General use uplands	Land disposals Remote cabins except in upper Koyuk River	Open	Portions of several townships in middle Koyuk River proposed for state selections
6c	Habitat & harvest uplands	Land disposals Remote cabins except in upper Koyuk River	Open	Portions of several townships in middle Koyuk River proposed for state selections

¹Secondary uses include: forestry and reindeer grazing in subunits 6b and 6c; recreation in subunit 6a.

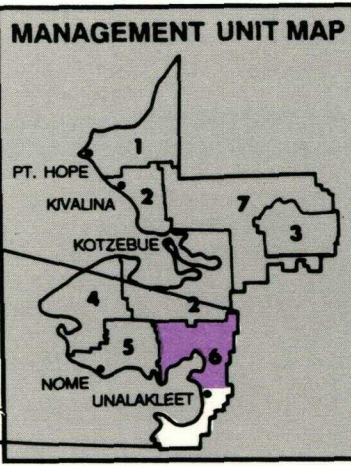
²Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

³All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals. See glossary in Appendix A for definitions of leasable and locatable minerals. See Appendix H for detailed descriptions of areas closed to mineral entry.

**NORTON
SOUND**

LEGEND

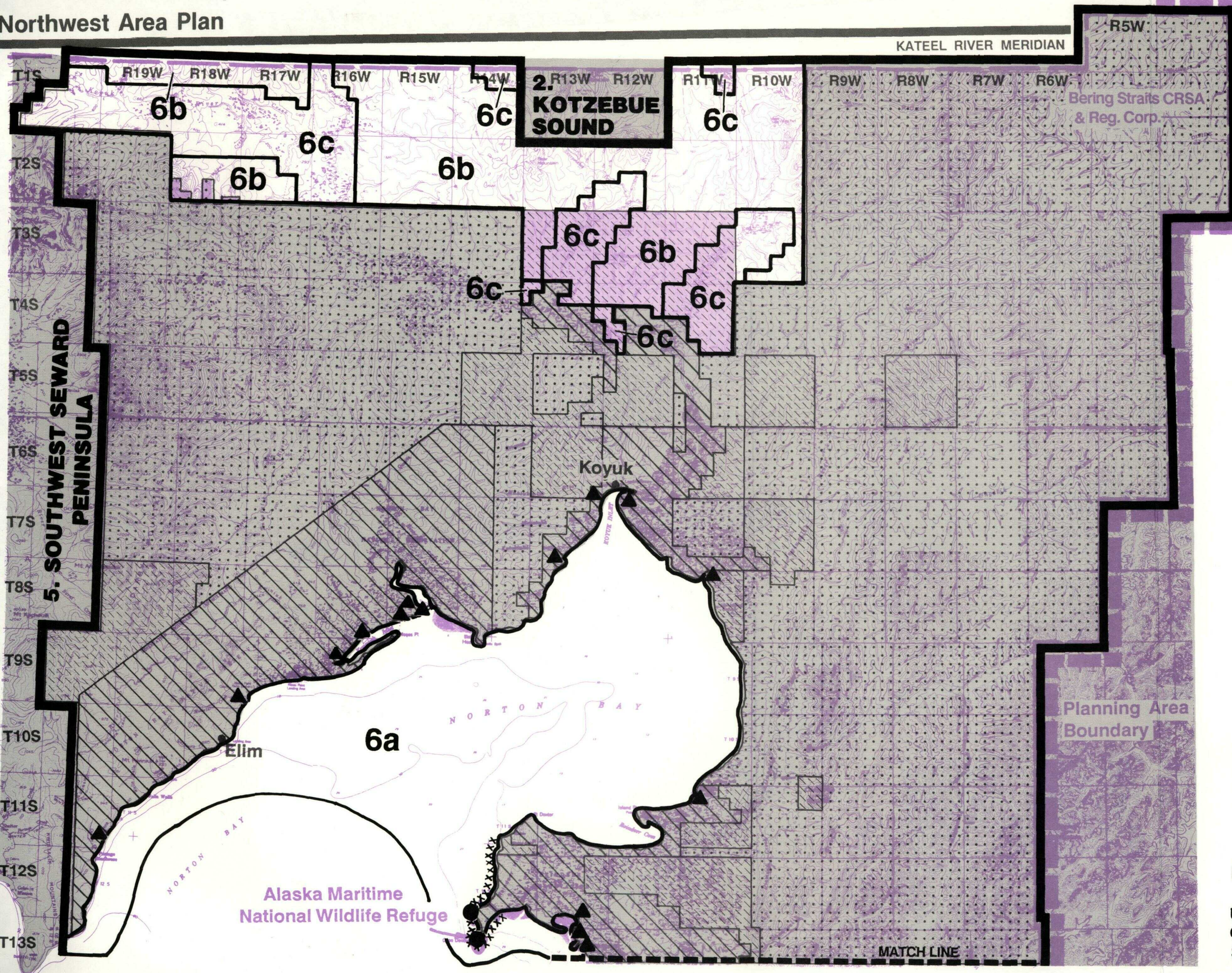
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- 6a Subunit Boundary
- No Pattern State Owned
- + + State Selected
- Proposed State Selection
- Native Owned
- Native Selected
- Federal
- X Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- ▲ Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries



Map Scale: 1:500,000



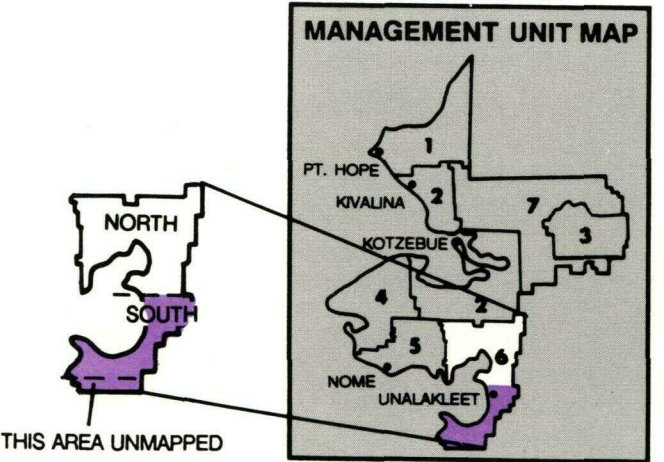
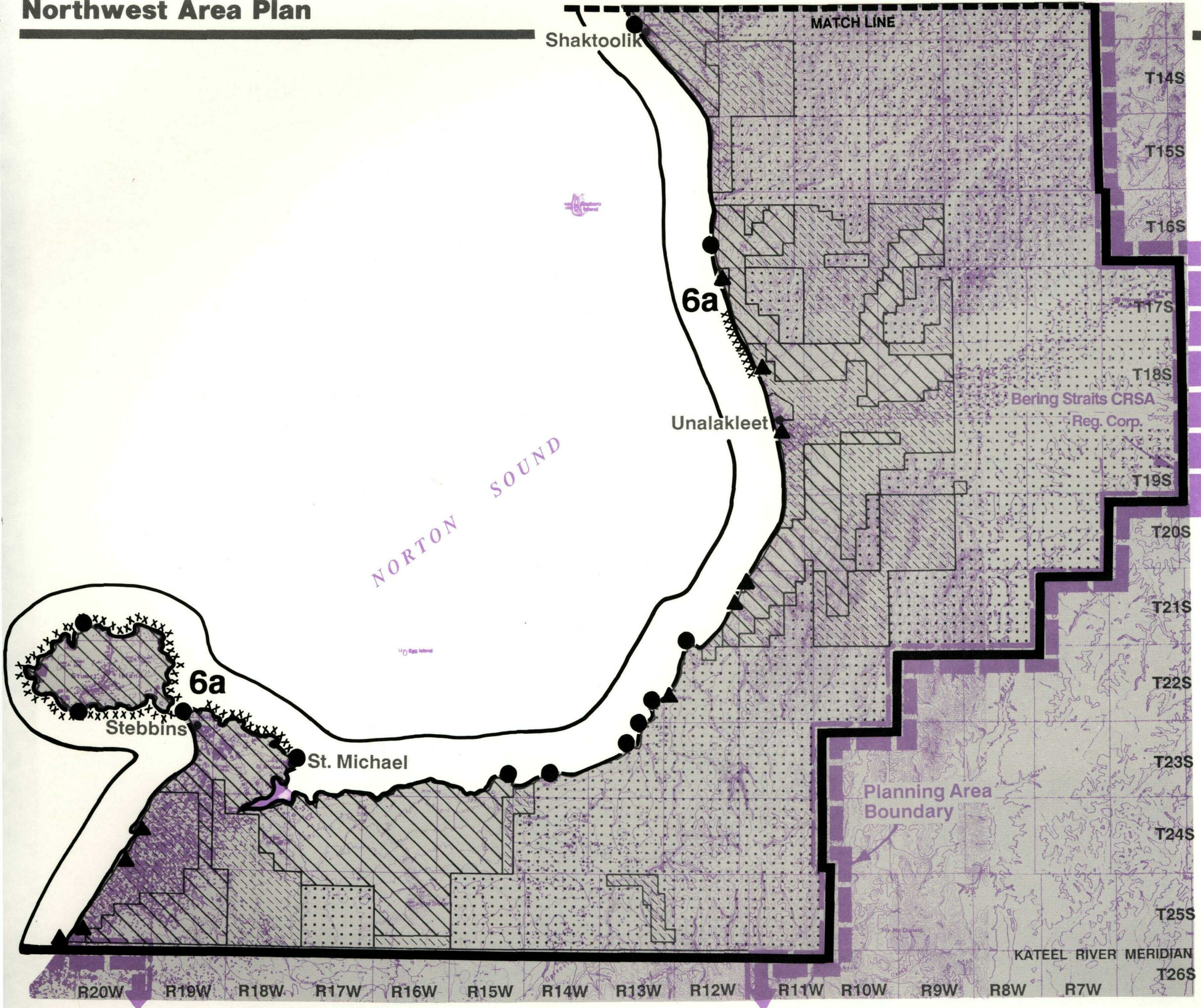
U.S.G.S. Quads:
Candle Norton Bay
Solomon Bendeleben 3-75



NORTON SOUND

LEGEND

- Management Unit Boundary
- 6a Subunit Boundary
- No Pattern State Owned
- + + State Selected
- Native Owned
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- X Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- ▲ Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries



Map Scale: 1:500,000



U.S.G.S. Quads: Norton Bay